



February 18, 2018 Leader Guide

## THE WIN

The group member will discuss the implications of Matthew 26:6-16 in light of their everyday experiences with generosity.

1-2  
minutes

## SERMON RECAP: WHAT DID THE TEXT MEAN? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

The message this week focused on how being generous with others demonstrates our love and commitment. What feelings did the message churn up in you?

3-5  
minutes

## WARM UP

Describe your first Valentine's Day with your spouse. How would you rate it on a scale of 1-10 (1- really bad, 10- no words to describe it)

30-35  
minutes

## THE TEXT: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?

### ASK THIS:

- How did your 'people-to-love' challenge go from last week?
- As you reflect on your experience, what insights did it bring in your own life?

### DO THIS:

Have someone read Matthew 26:6-16

**Leader Tip:** You may have some group members who find studying the passage that was taught in the message this week as boring and holding no value. Be intentional in casting vision for our sermon-aligned approach to curriculum. All of our communicators spend upwards of 15-20 hours per week preparing the sermon only to deliver it in 30 minutes. There are a variety of application points that are left unexplored. By revisiting the sermon passage in your group all group members are allowed to explore these application points.

### SAY THIS:

The message this week was helpful in pointing out the difference in throwing money at someone and showing care by giving them the right gifts.

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**ASK THIS:**

- While we acknowledge that none of us were there when the event took place, how do you think the disciples viewed the woman after seeing her “waste” the perfume?

**DO THIS:**

Share an experience in your own life where you felt someone else “wasted” something valuable. What did you think? Did you say anything? How did they respond?

**ASK THIS:**

- What is it inside of us that gets riled up when we see someone else “waste” something valuable?

**Leader Tip:** *This is a great opportunity to bring up topics such as Americans and food waste, what science has learned about the benefits of exercise and its impact on obesity, the material nature of America and garage sales etc. Let the conversation get vibrant and lively if possible. The emotion behind this conversation will position the group member experience a greater attentiveness to how Jesus responded to this perceived wasteful act.*

**SAY THIS:**

In vv.10b-12 Jesus reveals to his disciples that the woman has shown great care for him.

**ASK THIS:**

- How old were you when you recognized that someone had given you an expression of care?
- When was the last time a loved one demonstrated an expression of care for you?
- What emotions did you experience? What were the circumstances around receiving that expression of care?

**SAY THIS:**

Besides birthdays, anniversaries, and Christmas, it can be difficult to discern if someone is giving you a gift for a specific reason or to simply communicate appreciation and care.

**ASK THIS:**

- How do you typically navigate the situation when a person gives you a gift?
- Some people would say they feel awkward because they don't feel valuable or worthy of gifts and the money should be spent on more important things. In light of the passage this week, if someone wanted to give you a gift to show you appreciation or care how should you receive and discern the gift?

**SAY THIS:**

Let's go back and look at v.11.

**ASK THIS:**

- What thoughts come to mind when you read Jesus say the “world will always have the poor?”

**SAY THIS:**

This realization immediately positions the Christ-follower with a decision. Since the world will always have the poor, what is the response of the Christ-follower? Some might decide that the poor are to be cared for through personal

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financial gifts, government funding and protection through legislation, and love and support from the Church. Yet others may choose to simply accept that there will be poor people, give when they can afford to give, and are marginally involved. What Jesus is not saying is the poor are unimportant but that what the woman did was great because she was showing care for him.

**Leader Tip:** *This question teases the group to go political but do your best to resist. The focus is to set the mind of the group member on how Jesus' view what the woman was doing. We have to acknowledge that people approach giving to the poor differently. However, no matter anyone approaches generosity, we are to yield to the Scriptures. Also, be sensitive if you have people far from God in your group. Do not assume they want to follow the Scriptures.*

**ASK THIS:**

- It seems showing care and compassion is at the heart of giving. John 3:16 is a popular example of the heart of giving. What relationship does care and compassion have with your approach to generosity?

**DO THIS:**

Collect prayer requests and then pair up and pray for the needs of the group.

## CLOSING THOUGHT

This week challenge yourself to be generous with those around you and when you give your gift be sensitive to your heart. Be present in the moment and ask yourself "Why am I giving this gift?" "How do I view this person?" "Do I need to give these feelings to Christ?"